



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way · Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

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CONTACTS: Chris McCloud
(217) 785-0075
Januari Smith
(217) 558-1544

IDNR Hosts Public Meeting on Coastal Management Program

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) will host a public hearing on Friday, February 18 to receive comments and discuss the new Illinois Coastal Management Program (ICMP) that is under review for federal approval.

Governor Pat Quinn established the ICMP by Executive Order on December 10, 2010. The public meeting at which interested citizens, organizations and other stakeholders can review the ICMP and provide comments is a requirement of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which oversees the federal Coastal Management Program and provides funding for state CMPs like that being established in Illinois. IDNR will also be accepting written comments on the CMP.

Through the federally-funded Coastal Management Program, Illinois will receive up to \$2 million annually from NOAA to improve the northeast Illinois economy and create jobs by protecting the state's coastal resources along Lake Michigan. Illinois expects to use the federal funding from the program to restore threatened habitats, enhance and protect harbors on Lake Michigan and help municipalities develop plans to restore and sustain shorelines. This program will coordinate with other regional restoration efforts, including the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and the Lake Michigan Lakewide Area Management Plan (LaMP).

Goals of the ICMP include supporting local, state and federal partnerships as agencies work to manage coastal resources; developing strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change; developing long-term solutions to address toxins and invasive species; working to expand the use of green infrastructure to control storm water; promoting groundwater recharge and reduce flooding; and helping communities identify opportunities for water-related economic development.

The meeting will be held at the James R. Thompson Center, Room 2-025, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, from noon to 4:30 p.m.. A webinar of the meeting will be available online from 1-2 p.m. For detailed information on public meeting and the Illinois Coastal Management Program along Lake Michigan, check the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov/cmp/Pages/default.aspx.

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